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Department of
Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Jack Lavin, Director

Renewable Energy Resources Rebate Program



Photo – 1.1 Kilowatt Photovoltaic Array at Benedictine University



The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is authorized by the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law of 1997 (20 ILCS 687/6-1 et seq.) to administer the state's Renewable Energy Resources Program.



Photo – Spire Solar Chicago

Part of the 32 kw PV system on the DuSable Museum of African American History. This is the 10 kW array that shades the skylights.

Success Story

Jon Haeme built the first straw bale house in Illinois in 1995. In May 1999 he added a 1KW photovoltaic array consisting of sixteen Solarex panels and an AIR 403 wind generator. The hy-bred system charges 4-D batteries wired for 1,260 amp-hours; an E-Meter is used to monitor the system. Jon's electric bills run about \$10 in the summer and \$8 in the winter. The passive solar design provides a large portion of the heating requirements for the Haemes, a family of three. They use propane for hot water, cooking, and drying clothes. Their propane bill is approximately \$175 a year. The Haeme's annual energy costs average \$650.

The Haeme's received a DCEO rebate in the amount of \$4,995 and the total project cost, for the PV system, were \$10,079. Jon is always happy to discuss his project. A complete summary of his home building can be read at <http://www.stellecommunity.com/haeme81.pdf>



An 18 kW PV system on the Children's Place care center on Chicago's South

Rebate Program

DCEO administers the Renewable Energy Resources Rebate Program to encourage the utilization of renewable energy and support economic development in Illinois. This DCEO rebate program has successfully contributed to the growth of the solar thermal and Photovoltaic (PV) industry in Illinois over the last several years, and the revised rebate guidelines are intended to allow the solar industry in Illinois to continue to expand into new markets.

Significantly, the program now offers a maximum rebate of \$10,000, allowing numerous small business applications to fall within the effective range of the program. DCEO is optimistic that the new guidelines will help continue to expand the industry, create jobs, protect Illinois businesses and residential customers from higher energy prices, and preserve the environment. As of June 30, 2004, the Renewable Energy Resources Rebate Program has awarded a total of 212 rebates (77 photovoltaic and 135 solar thermal), totaling \$831,178.



Photo – Spire Solar Chicago

de. The modules' back sheets were customized to blend in with the roof.

Rebate Categories and Limitations

Rebate amount is based on actual project costs of equipment and installation. DCEO may provide up to, but not more than, the following funds for a single project:

- Photovoltaic or Solar Thermal systems: 50 percent up to a \$5,000 rebate for the first \$10,000 of eligible project costs, and 25 percent thereafter up to a maximum rebate of \$10,000.
- Projects with a total value exceeding \$50,000 are ineligible.

The maximum rebate amount of \$10,000 is reached at a project cost of \$30,000. Systems with a total cost of between \$30,000 and \$50,000 are eligible for the rebate but will not receive a rebate larger than \$10,000.

Grant Program

In addition to the ongoing Rebate Program, DCEO also offers grants for the purchase and installation of various renewable energy technologies on an annual basis. Grant availability and targeted technologies vary each year, but have included utility-scale wind turbine projects, solar thermal, photovoltaics, and anaerobic digesters (biogas).

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